

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

New Jersey Commission for the Blind

For the Year 1912.



CAMDEN, N. J.:
SINNICKSON CHEW & SONS COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1913.

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ANNUAL REPORT.

This report covers only ten months, the work up to this time being included in a previous report, completing the third fiscal and legal year of the New Jersey State Commission for the Blind. The work of the Commission during this period has been conducted along the lines previously followed, and the blind throughout the State have been more effectively reached by strengthening and broadening the work.

Miss Anne V. Ward, of Camden, N. J., Home Teacher of the Blind in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer and Ocean Counties, reports giving 604 lessons to 64 pupils, teaching 871 hours and travelling 3,043 miles in 447 hours. Through her influence one woman earns nine dollars per week canvassing for sanitary brushes, and one man earns five dollars per week canvassing for brushes and notions.

Miss Bertha M. Johnson, of Bridgeton, N. J., Home Teacher of the Blind in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem Counties, reports giving 413 lessons to 46 pupils, teaching 519 hours and travelling 5423 miles in 598 hours. Her pupils have earned, as a direct result of her teaching, \$83.95.

Miss Mary A. Springer, of Newark, N. J., Home Teacher of the Blind in Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic and Warren counties, reports giving 574 lessons to 59 pupils, teaching 447 hours and travelling 4,752 miles in 517 hours. The earnings of her pupils are included in the work shop fund given later in this report.

Mr. Wm. J. Adickes and Mr. Edward G. Baptist divided their time between teaching in the class room at headquarters, and Home Teaching in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Morris, Passaic and Union Counties, giving 1,878 lessons to 79 pupils.

The totals of the work of these teachers are: Lessons—3,469. Pupils—248.

Many messages have come to headquarters from all parts of the State, expressing the pleasure and profit received by the blind through the Home Teachers. One woman notices a marked

improvement in her health over the previous year. Another, hearing of a man recently blinded, would not rest or give the man or his family peace till he, too, applied for the services of a Home Teacher. The relatives of other blind persons have expressed gratitude for the suggested ways of helping the blind. So we may be assured that the Home Teachers are, by example and precept, training their pupils to recognize the sweetness of adversity and helping transform an "Enchainment into an Enchantment." All are gaining a deeper insight into the truth of the power of the endless life, and all realize more fully that each has the ability to further or retard the happiness of those about him.

Mr. Tellone, of Newark, gave weekly lessons in Italian to the pupils at headquarters.

The Armstrong Piano Co., of Newark, presented to the Commission a square piano which has made possible the opening of a class in piano repairing for adults, and of another in piano instruction for the class for blind children in the Newark Public Schools. Arrangements have also been made for a music teacher to instruct the class for blind children of the Jersey City Public Schools.

Statistics of 149 persons were procured during the year, making a total 1072 registrations at headquarters.

Through our efforts five blind youths have been admitted to schools, one to a residential school for the blind, one deaf-blind girl to a residential State School for the Deaf, and three to public schools. Also four blind persons have been entered in Homes.

Clothes were supplied for two blind women, four blind men and one blind child.

Under our supervision four blind persons have received regular medical attention.

In order that the public may know the blind in their respective communities and become familiar with their capabilities, and in order that the market for the work of the blind may be extended, addresses, demonstrations and sales of work for and by the blind have been given in Elizabeth, Flemington, Jersey City, Montclair, Newark, Orange, Red Bank, Trenton, Union Hill and Upper Montclair. With the co-operation of the New Jersey State Association for the Blind, publicity has been given

the work through the circulation of 6,000 reports throughout the State.

Report of fund for paying pupils for marketable goods, raised by Mrs. S. J. Churchill, of Montclair, N. J., and reimbursed by the various sales:

Balance on hand November 1, 1911.....	\$95.23
Receipts from November 1, 1911 to November 1, 1912.....	1,067.25
	\$1,162.48
Disbursements from November 1, 1911 to November 1, 1912.....	1,023.84
Balance on hand November 1, 1912.....	\$138.64

The above report is an indication of the effective work which might be done if this fund were larger. Privileges for newsstands have been secured, but two blind men are unable to avail themselves of these opportunities for lack of financial backing.

In these days of labor-saving machinery it is difficult even for the sighted to earn a livelihood by means of their hands. It is therefore impossible for those handicapped by blindness to compete with the sighted and machinery in the industrial struggle. A manufacturer of cocoa is putting up a high grade breakfast cocoa, which is furnished the blind at manufacturer's cost, to sell from their homes. This cocoa is labeled "Home Trade Cocoa, Sold only by Home Trade Agents in New Jersey," Depot, 859 Broad St., Newark, N. J. One blind woman, feeling depressed by the feebleness of increasing years, has expressed her delight at being able to earn money by the selling of this cocoa. Since August, 1912, 833 half-pound cans have been sold by 16 blind persons, in 7 cities.

In order that the blind of the State might be better known, and their needs, condition and abilities be better understood, a conference with them was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Newark, N. J., on May 23, 1912.

The Commission indorsed a bill providing tuition and a reader for the higher education of the blind.

The Commission sent a letter of approval to Mr. Murray for his bill requiring women to wear shields on hat pins.

The Commission advised with the Board of Trade of the Chamber of Commerce, Trenton, regarding a bill for a State

Work Shop for the Blind, which the Board of Trade later decided was not feasible.

The work for the blind was hampered for several months by the cramped quarters at 13 Central Ave., Newark, but since the removal to the new quarters, the results have been better, and more interest has been shown on the part of the public.

REPORT OF STATE FUND NOVEMBER 1, 1911 TO NOVEMBER 1, 1912.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation for 1911 and 1912.....	\$5,000.00
Supplementary appropriation	2,973.38
Total receipts	<u>\$7,973.38</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Salaries	\$4,521.34
Office supplies	114.43
Office furniture	267.26
Express	84.58
Postage	69.55
Transportation	1,626.06
Work shop supplies.....	248.73
Rent	405.00
Telephone	70.25
Printing of reports.....	24.50
Sundries	16.49
Back bills	521.41
Total disbursements	<u>\$7,969.60</u>
Balance, November 1, 1912.....	\$3.78

As we strive to meet our duties and obligations to the Blind of New Jersey through the coming year, may we all co-operate along the following lines:

1. Securing the necessary tuition from the State for the blind children near enough for daily attendance at the Newark and the Jersey City Public School Classes for the blind youth.

2. Securing for the blind feeble minded youth of the State, tuition at the Vineland Training School for the Feeble Minded, at the rate of \$540.00 per capita per year.

3. Securing for the blind, desirous of an education at a higher institution of learning, the necessary tuition and the services of a reader.

4. Securing from the 1913 Legislature an adequate appropriation with which the Commission may complete the census of the blind, enlarge the Home Teaching Department, and provide occupation and suitable care for the adults who need public special attention.

5. Co-operating with Judge H. V. Osborne, of Newark, in codifying the laws of the State relating to the education and care of the blind.

6. Co-operating in preventive measures pertaining to the lighting of schools and offices, and seeing that the books used in public schools are printed in a clear and distinct type.

7. Notifying the Commission of all cases of defective sight which need special medical or educational attention.

These are needs which are vital, and require immediate attention; and co-operative help at this time along these lines will most surely give to the blind of New Jersey that education which will best fit them to meet the exigencies of life, and in a large measure conserve the remaining vision of the defective sighted.

LYDIA Y. HAYES,

Supervisor of Work for the Blind of New Jersey.

Survey of New Jersey's Public and Private Work for the Blind.

I.

NEW JERSEY STATE COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND,
Office, 359 Broad Street, Newark, N. J.
Tel., Market 3838—W.

COMMISSIONERS—

Wm. Fellowes Morgan, Short Hills, President.
Mrs. Albert T. Beckett, Salem, Recording Secretary.
C. R. Dieffenbach, Jersey City.
Mrs. Ellis P. Earle, Montclair.
Norton L. Wilson, M. D., Elizabeth.

APPROPRIATION—

Annual, November, 1911 to November, 1912, \$5,000.
Supplementary, \$2,973.38.

EMPLOYEES—

Miss Lydia Y. Hayes, Montclair, Supervisor.
Miss Madeleine H. Woolf, Montclair, Secretary.
Edward G. Baptist, Jersey City, Class Room Teacher.
William J. Adiekes, Hoboken, Home Teacher in Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic and Union counties.
Miss Mary A. Springer, Newark, Home Teacher in Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Passaic and Warren counties.
Miss Anne V. Ward, Camden, Home Teacher in Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Mercer and Ocean counties.
Miss Bertha M. Johnson, Bridgeton, Home Teacher in Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties.

II.

STATE EDUCATION OF BLIND CHILDREN.
STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS,
STATE HOUSE, TRENTON, N. J.

COMMISSIONER—

Joseph P. Byers.

APPROPRIATIONS—

November, 1911 to November, 1912, \$20,000.

INSTITUTIONS—

New York Institution for the Blind, New York City.

19 New Jersey pupils instructed.

Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Overbrook, Pa.

15 New Jersey pupils instructed.

The Arthur Home for Blind Babies, Summit, N. J.

7 New Jersey babies cared for.

III.

PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSES FOR BLIND CHILDREN.

Washington Street Public School, Newark.

Superintendent, Dr. A. B. Poland.

Principal, H. F. Shantler.

Teacher, Miss Janet G. Paterson.

Date of opening class, December 7, 1910.

Number of children, 9.

Tuition of children of neighboring municipalities, \$200.

1 child admitted from Harrison.

Five have entered the regular grades with sighted children of their own age and have been advanced with records of 80 per cent. or over in all studies.

School No. 14, Union Street, Jersey City.

Superintendent, Dr. Henry Snyder.

Principal, W. S. Balcock.

Teacher, Miss Myra H. Embree.

Date of opening class, December 1, 1911.

Number of children, 7.

Tuition of children of neighboring municipalities, \$100.

1 child admitted from Hoboken.

IV.

LIBRARIES CONTAINING EMBOSSED BOOKS.

Hoboken.

Jersey City.

Newark.

Trenton.

The New York Public Library.

Library for the Blind. 476 Fifth Ave., New York City.

5,700 volumes in New York Point, English Braille, Moon, American Braille and Line Letter Types.

Time limit—1 month with privilege of renewal.

All embossed magazines in English, French, German and Italian; and all magazines in ink print relating to work with the blind.

Time limit—2 weeks.

4,200 Music Scores.

This matter is available, free of charge, for blind persons residing in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

V.

PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

Bayonne Home for the Blind (Catholic), Bayonne, N. J.

St. Joseph's Home for the Blind (Catholic), Pavonia Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

School Department for Children.

Working Home for Women.

Work Shop and Home for Men.

VI.

ASSOCIATIONS.

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND.

Organized December 15, 1911, Montclair, N. J.

OFFICERS—

Joseph P. Byers, President.

Mrs. Robert B. Steele, Secretary.

Mrs. Ellis P. Earle, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—

Rev. Edgar S. Wiers, Montclair.

Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Montclair.

A. W. McDougall, Newark.

Mrs. Sarah J. Churchill, Montclair.

Miss Lydia Y. Hayes, Montclair.

Mrs. Robert Hoe Dodd, Montclair.

Miss Helen Earle, Montclair.

NEW JERSEY BLIND MEN'S CLUB.

381 Washington Street, Newark, N. J.

Organized July 15, 1910. Meets first Thursday of every month.

OFFICERS—

Charles Jebert, President.

Archibald Munroe, Vice President.

John Allwood, Treasurer.

Henry F. Adickes, Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP—

16 blind men.

OBJECT—

Social and economical welfare of the blind.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED—

Secured to the blind of Newark the right to use whistles to signal for police assistance at street crossings.

NEW JERSEY PROGRESSIVE BLIND MEN'S SOCIETY. (Incorporated.)
Free Public Library, Jersey Ave. and Montgomery St., Jersey City, N. J.
Organized June 30, 1910. Meets third Thursday of every month.

OFFICERS—

Charles Mumby, President.
E. G. Baptist, First Vice President.
Charles Blumentritt, Second Vice President.
T. M. G. Lennon, Business Agent.
C. R. Dieffenbach, Treasurer.
L. P. Schuerman, Recording Secretary.
J. Upton, Financial Secretary.

TRUSTEES—

Charles Burke.
Charles Blumentritt.
Thomas Johnson.

MEMBERSHIP—

26 blind men.

WORK ACCOMPLISHED—

Secured the passage of Chapter 82, Laws of New Jersey, 1911, amending Chapter 136, Laws of New Jersey, 1909. (A bill enlarging the State Commission for the Blind and providing for at least one blind member, Mr. C. R. Dieffenbach being appointed to this position.)
Secured the passage of a bill providing for the higher education of the blind in this State.
Secured the adoption of whistles in the cities of Trenton, Jersey City, Hoboken and Bayonne.
Secured the tuning of public school pianos of Bayonne, Jersey City, West Hoboken and North Bergen.
Arranged for exhibitions at the Jersey City Armory, Bayonne and Union Hill.
Engaged a business agent to look up work for the blind.
The funds of the society were also used for relief work and for professional services of blind persons.

OBJECT—

To promote, socially, intellectually and economically, the welfare of the blind.

TRENTON ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS FOR THE BLIND.

145 Bayard Street, Trenton, N. J.

Organized October, 1911. Meets third Thursday of each month.

OFFICERS—

Mrs. Catherine Brock, President.

Miss Jennie Brady, Vice President.

Mrs. Stanley Crossman, Secretary.

Mr. Patrick Carey, Treasurer.

OBJECT—

To promote the social and economical welfare of the blind.

THE LAW.

CHAPTER 136, LAWS OF NEW JERSEY, 1909.

An Act constituting a commission for ameliorating the condition of the blind, and defining its powers and duties.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*:

1. The Governor of this State shall appoint three citizens thereof to constitute a commission for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the blind. Each of the members of said commission shall hold office for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy occurring in the said commission shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term only. The members of said commission shall receive no salary, but shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the provision of this act.

2. It shall be the duty of said commission to provide any and all means which, in their judgment, shall be deemed feasible for ameliorating the condition of the blind, and by reports to be made to the Governor from time to time, as said commission may deem proper, to recommend means and methods for the prevention of blindness. Said commission shall prepare and maintain a register of all the blind in this State. It shall be the duty of every physician to report to said commission each and every case of defective vision where, in the judgment of said physician, the person suffering from said defective vision may become permanently blind.

3. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, including the necessary expenses of said commission, the sum of fifteen hundred dollars is hereby appropriated to be paid to said commission from time to time in the manner provided by law.

4. This shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 16, 1909.

CHAPTER 82, LAWS OF NEW JERSEY, 1911.

An Act to amend an act, entitled "An act constituting a commission for ameliorating the condition of the blind, and defining its powers and duties," approved April sixteenth, one thousand nine hundred and nine.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*:

1. Section one of the act to which this act is an amendment shall be amended to read as follows:

1. The Governor of this State shall appoint five citizens thereof to constitute a commission for the purpose of ameliorating the condition of the blind, at least one of whom shall be a blind person.

Each of the members of said commission shall hold office for a term of three years and until their successors are appointed and qualified. Any vacancy occurring in said commission shall be filled by the Governor for the unexpired term only.

The members of said commission shall receive no salary, but shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this act.

Approved March 30, 1911.

POLICY OF THE NEW JERSEY COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND.

ADOPTED FEBRUARY 14, 1912.

We purpose: To keep a complete and up-to-date record of the blind of the State.

To regard the blind as normal individual members of the community and not as a class; and ourselves as appointed to protect their rights to that education which will free their powers of heart and mind and body, and to develop the home training for the youth and the adult, and hand in hand with this training, to promote the home industries for the blind, awakening a public interest in their possible capabilities.

To believe in the intrinsic educational value of manual training, realizing its industrial difficulties as a means of support for the blind.

To strive in every way to decrease and prevent blindness, but when it does occur to do all in our power to develop in the blind a self respecting and respected manhood and womanhood, only commending their best work in the various lines possible for them to follow.

To try to protect the community by providing custodial care and training for the mentally defective blind.



